

RECREATION ELEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This section of the General Plan sets forth objectives, principles, standards and proposals for a system of park and recreation facilities that will best satisfy the recreational and cultural needs of all the people of Camarillo and its Sphere of Influence. The specific plans for park development and program content can be obtained at the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District Office in the Community Center complex at 1605 East Burnley Street, Camarillo.

At the root of a good park system are the neighborhood and community parks, which serve the citizenry on a daily basis. It is for this reason that neighborhood and community parks are emphasized. But, there is a need for a variety of recreation; special use parks, regional parks and major private facilities are included, thereby offering a total park and recreation system. Regional parks and private facilities are included in this plan only as they exist or are proposed by the city or county.

OBJECTIVES

The General Plan proposes that land areas and programs be established to provide a wide range of recreation facilities and activities that will serve all the people of Camarillo and its environs with adequate year-round recreation.

PRINCIPLES

To achieve the objectives of the Plan, the following principles are established:

- Provide a balanced park and recreation system by locating facilities where they will most adequately serve the needs of residents;
- Provide a full and varying range of recreational and cultural activities for all residents of Camarillo and its environs;
- Wherever possible, coordinate school and park facilities for maximum utilization and efficiency in maintenance and operation;
- Establish a comprehensive program of sequential land acquisition and development for future park and recreation sites as well as expansion of existing sites;
- Provide and sustain high standards of design, improvement and maintenance of all recreation facilities.

STANDARDS

- Park and recreation standards provide useful criteria by which some measurable evaluation can be applied toward the recreation needs of a specific area. Standards will vary from city to city; therefore, each agency must evaluate its own needs and develop standards accordingly. It must be remembered that standards are only basic guidelines and variations may occur. It is with this in mind that the following standards are proposed.
- As a general standard, the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District and the City of Camarillo recommends that for each 1,000 persons, a total of 2½ acres of neighborhood parks and 2½ acres of community parks should be required for a combined total of 5 acres of parkland per 1000 residents.
- Mini-parks are those parks that fall below the size and facilities standards of neighborhood parks. The primary function of this type of park is to act as a rather specialized facility in terms of size, location and purpose to fill the gap in a specific area. Normally, the limited facilities are geared towards passive recreation green space, pedestrianways or perhaps act as perimeter grounds for a site of historical significance. These parks are often called mini-parks because they are sometimes no larger than a residential lot and less than a neighborhood park.
- Neighborhood Parks are primarily intended to provide neighborhoods with space and facilities for active as well as passive recreation. Neighborhood parks should serve all residents; however, design of facilities and activities should emphasize the character of the environs of which it is a part. In order to fulfill its role in the neighborhood, the following standards are established:
 - The most preferable service radius for a neighborhood park is ¼mile and the maximum is ½ mile.
 - The suggested acreage for a neighborhood park should be between 5 and 10 acres.
 - The most desirable acreage for a neighborhood park immediately adjacent to an elementary school should be from 2 to 5 acres, with the school supplying about 6 acres of playground.
 - The neighborhood park should, whenever possible, be located so that patrons need not cross a major street or highway when walking to a park site. Ideal facilities for the neighborhood park include:
 - Children's play area (apparatus play structures)
 - Picnic areas (within passive setting)
 - Open play area
 - Recreation building
 - Restrooms

➤ Community Parks are designed to serve the residents of several adjoining neighborhoods. They are intended to provide a wider range of recreational and cultural opportunities than the Neighborhood Park. With a greater service population, more specialized activities can be supported. In addition to the broad range of activities offered by the community parks, it can function as a neighborhood park. The design of the community park should be based on the following standards:

- The Community Park should be planned to provide a service radius of not more than 1½ miles.
- The suggested acreage for a community park should range from 10 to 25 acres.
- When adjacent to an intermediate school or high school, the Community Park should be between 8 to 15 acres and the school playground should be about 12 acres.
- The Community Park should have good access and be as centrally located to the service area as possible. The primary functions of the community park are both recreational and cultural; therefore, the following facilities are suggested:

- Children's play area
- Picnic areas
- Athletic Fields (soccer and baseball)
- Tennis courts
- Community/Recreation Building
- Specialized activity (i.e., swimming pool)
- Restrooms
- Parking

➤ Special Use Parks include park sites, which provide the citizenry with a single activity or group of closely related activities. Size would be determined on the basis of the particular activity, however, its size would generally be greater than a neighborhood park. Examples of a special use might include a nature center, skateboard park or tennis complex. No service radius is assigned because of the area-wide interest that would be generated.

➤ A District-Wide Park is the multi-faceted recreational and cultural center of the city. Located in a central position, it would serve the total Park District and should offer facilities and activities beyond that which the community park does. Its size should be no smaller than 25 acres.

➤ Regional Parks are planned and administered by agencies of the County of Ventura or State. These sites usually provide recreation on a large scale and therefore attract all categories of people from throughout the County. Usually a regional park offers an

environment of unique natural surroundings, an area of historical significance, or extensive man-made recreation facilities. Ventura County has set a size standard of 50 acres minimum for regional parks, with some modification for beach parks and parks of a natural setting. (Source - Ventura County General Plan-Goals, Policies and Programs, December 17, 1996.)

- Although not specifically designed for recreation, Public School Playgrounds offer and provide a form of supplemental neighborhood and community recreation. Because of limited facilities and operating schedules, school playgrounds are considered as supplemental to the park system and should not discount the need for park facilities. Recreation facilities found at school playgrounds usually include: playfields, hardcourt areas, apparatus multipurpose rooms, and gymnasiums.
- In addition to the public recreation facilities discussed above, a total recreation network will consist of some major private facilities. These facilities usually have use restrictions; nevertheless, they fulfill a need. Private recreation facilities usually include golf courses, swim clubs and recreation areas within planned residential developments.
- Linkages are a network of linear paths through which a system of similar or related uses are tied together to provide buffering between uses and visual relief. Linkages can be of several forms, including bikeways, sidewalks, hiking and riding trails and other special corridors. In addition to joining uses, linkages can give form and identity to a city or community. In respect to a network of parks and recreation facilities, linkages are a prime binding force.

PROPOSALS

The park and recreation proposals contained in this Plan were developed through a review and analysis of both the City of Camarillo Recreation Element and the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District's Park and Recreation Plan (hereafter called 'Park Plan'), which was adopted by the City of Camarillo on May 14, 1975. The Park Board of Directors adopted a revised park plan in January 10, 1990. The Park Plan was analyzed and proposals were made on the basis of the Land Use Element of the General Plan.

By way of summarizing, the results of the analysis showed that the existing Park Plan was a well-conceived and well-thought-out document. The variations reflected in this, the Camarillo General Plan, primarily are based on changes in the proposed land use characteristics and changes in terminology and definitions.

The discussion which follows is a review of the park and recreation facilities and consideration for general location and types of future park sites and expansion or modification of existing park sites or services.

REGIONAL PARKS

The County of Ventura and the State of California address regional park needs. The present park system includes the Camarillo Grove Park, which contains approximately 25 acres serving Camarillo with family, group picnic and activity areas. The park's oak trees and accessibility to the open hillside areas provide uniqueness not found in formal City parks. The park district recently obtained Camarillo Grove Park from the County of Ventura and is in the process of incorporating the park within the Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District.

The State of California presently provides a share of regional recreational facilities with the development of Sycamore Canyon recreational area located within the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Mugu Lagoon is also designated as a regional area although intended for passive-type recreation and is to remain in a natural setting as one of the last remaining wetland habitat areas along the California Coast.

This plan also calls for the development of a 50-acre surplus site immediately adjacent to the California State University at Channel Islands that could serve a variety of regional activities including Chumash Indian interpretive center, possible skeet range, hobbyist facilities, campground facilities, and picnicking for large groups.

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Private recreational facilities, either maintained for members or those open to the general public with a fee being charged, supplement public recreational facilities. Such facilities in the Camarillo planning area which help meet the local recreation needs include the Spanish Hills Golf and Country Club and Las Posas Country Club. Both clubs include private 18-hole golf courses and are located northwesterly of the City of Camarillo in the Spanish Hills area and the Las Posas Estates. Both facilities include swimming pools, tennis courts, pro shops, and restaurants.

Another club in the area is the Las Posas Swim Club, which includes a swimming pool, open green space, and community room for group picnics and barbecues.

Several private projects in the City have also included recreational facilities, such as Leisure Village, which has a building containing approximately 20,000 square feet of floor space for group activities and assembly, plus a swimming pool, jacuzzi, golf course, tennis courts, shuffleboard, and lawn bowling area. Residential projects should have the requirement for a proportionate share of space for recreation uses to reduce the need in the public sector.

Types of recreational uses that can be incorporated into projects include pools, tennis courts, jogging paths, and open space for active and passive recreation.

Public Recreational Facilities

Sterling Hills Golf course is located at the northwesterly portion of the City of Camarillo and is a semi-public 18-hole golf course and includes a clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant.

The Camarillo Springs Golf Course located on the easterly side of the City of Camarillo is an 18-hole public golf course with clubhouse, pro shop and restaurant. This facility provides a significant amount of open space and should be continued as a satisfying part of the regional needs for recreation.

Pleasant Valley Pool is a public pool utilized by the Pleasant Valley Swim Team, youth water polo, local community college classes and a variety of public programs (i.e. water aerobics, Junior Life Guard, therapeutic and lap swimming). The Pleasant Valley Pool is located on Temple Avenue.

Freedom Park Pool is located in the southwesterly portion of the city adjacent to Camarillo Airport. Between the months of September and May, various schools and the Pleasant Valley Swim Team use the swimming pool. During the summer months the swimming pool is used by the swim and water polo teams and is also used for public programs that include water aerobics, recreational swimming and lap swimming

LINKAGES

When initially adopted, the General Plan for the city called for the development of a network of trail systems, such as the pedestrian pathways that have been constructed and are proposed along Calleguas Creek between Upland Road and Mission Oaks Boulevard. As indicated in the Circulation Element of the General Plan, a bicycle plan is currently in place for the City of Camarillo.

A system of trails should take advantage of the natural waterways and drainage areas existing within Ventura County. The system may include a trail capable of serving bike riding and equestrian use. The trail system should follow the ridgelines and the various creekbeds, such as those recently completed along Calleguas Creek and that could be developed along Conejo Creek. Therefore, the topography or water feature would act as an integral part of the design and include appropriate landscape buffer between the trail system and the adjoining developments which would also tend to improve and enhance the system.

It is recommended as part of the Recreation Element of the City that a program be implemented with joint use between the cities within the County of Ventura to develop a network of urban and rural trails. Efforts should be made to link these trails with existing and proposed parks and schools wherever possible.

Bikeways are an extremely vital element in a linkage system. The use of the bicycle for exercise, transportation or pleasure is popular and indications are that this trend will continue.

ELEMENT GOALS

In addition to the recommendations for each of the existing or proposed parks, the following are goals to be applied in the design and implementation of the Recreation Element of the General Plan:

Park Design Review

- Children's play area located in neighborhood and community parks would serve a greater purpose if new or replacement equipment were designed by a consultant specializing in apparatus play structures emphasizing sensory motor integration and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- In designing parks, direction should be given towards the overall design of the park to prevent park vandalism, which in turn would reduce the amount of time and energy spent in repairing or replacing damage created by such action. Consideration should include location of buildings for clear visibility to public areas, lighting of buildings, exterior surface material, interior design of public facilities with attention given for ease of access for repair.
- Park layout should involve professional input and include greater creativity in design to generate interest in participation and to serve the special interest needs of its residents. This consideration could include such activities as motocross trails, bikepaths, jogging paths, exercise stations, et cetera.
- The design of any park should utilize professional consultants and receive community input for the development and review of the facilities proposed with consideration given to the compatibility of the design to remove any nuisance aspects of the park in relation to the adjoining residential units. The park design should also be required to comply with City standards and be reviewed and approved by the City Planning Commission.

Programs

- Consideration should be given to greater expansion and improvement of the various recreational programs offered the community by the Park District.

Marketing

- Consideration should be given to utilization of more productive marketing and/or public relations techniques to encourage the use of the park program being offered to ensure the viability of the program and the maximum use of the facilities for such functions.

FUTURE PARK CONSIDERATIONS

At the time of consideration of conversion of any land use designation, attention must be given to the recreational needs of the area to be developed with site selection and size based on the type of activities to be conducted and ease for pedestrian and vehicular access.

Commercial and Industrial Zones

Commercial and industrial areas should be encouraged to provide passive and active recreational space to supplement the need for their employees and those frequenting the facility. This can be accomplished by a series of walkways, fountains, seating, green space, or active play space, such as basketball courts, soccer areas, baseball fields, et cetera.

Multi-Family Residential

Various types of recreational uses are currently incorporated into multi-residential projects as part of the development review including pools, tennis courts, jogging paths, and open space for active and passive recreation. The inclusion of these recreational elements is part of the open space requirement of the city's multi-family Residential Planned Development Zone.

Cultural Arts Facility

In consideration of the various land use proposals throughout the City of Camarillo, the City should consider the establishment of a cultural arts facility to serve the performing and visual arts.

This facility should be placed in a location to serve the community in general and also assist the educational programs established by the public school system. Consideration of a joint County/City project should be given in light of the fact that Camarillo is the closest to the demographic center of the County.

In conjunction with this facility, adequate recreational facilities and space to satisfy a community-wide need should be considered which is not evident by the size of the existing parks within the City.

As mentioned previously, the park district is proposing a Chumash Indian interpretive center located in the vicinity of California State University at Channel Islands (CSUCI). The interpretive center is proposed to be located easterly of Lewis Road, south of the City of Camarillo city limits in the unincorporated area of the County of Ventura.

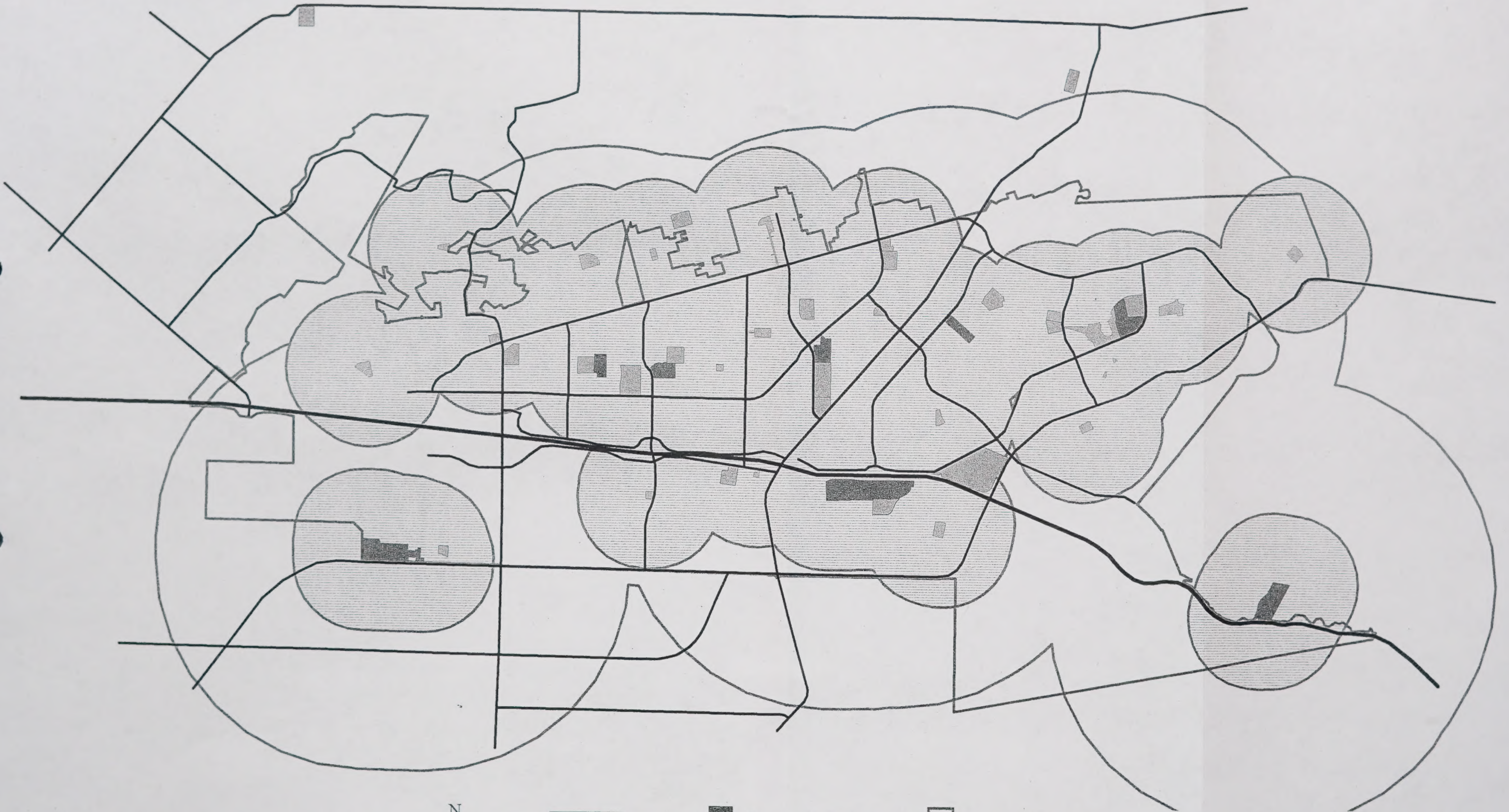
Neighborhood Parks

The location of neighborhood parks should be on the interior of residential neighborhoods and not on major or secondary arterials to insure neighborhood access.

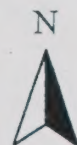
Community Parks

The consideration of future development projects should include providing recreation areas in the form of community parks to provide additional recreation space to further meet the goal of parkland for the residents and to satisfy the city's community goals.

Recreation Element



0 1 2 Miles



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Community Parks



Neighborhood Parks



1.5-mile service area



0.5-mile service area



Schools

City of Camarillo
Department of
Community Development

10-01-2002



DEVELOPED MINI AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Park Name	Location	Size in Acres	Year Developed	Facilities
Adolfo	Adolfo Road & Almendro Way	2.7	1980	Play Equipment Running Track Play Equipment Restrooms
Arneill Ranch	Sweetwater Avenue & Truman Street	4.99	1980	Volleyball Poles
Birchview	Birchview Lane & Laurel Ridge	0.7	1977	Play Equipment
Calleguas Creek	Avenida Valencia & Via Jacaranda	3.22	2000	Play Equipment Open Play Area
Charter Oak	Charter Oak Drive & Parkway Drive	5.69	1981	Fitness Course Play Equipment Volleyball Poles Basketball
Carmenita	Carmen Drive & Sevilla Street	1.82	2000	Picnic Tables BBQ Pit Play Equipment Half-court basketball
Crestview	Crestview Avenue & Camino Esplendido	3.39	1968	Play Equipment Volleyball Poles Restrooms
Dizdar	Ventura Boulevard & Glenn Drive	0.99	1965	Play Equipment Restrooms Multipurpose Building
Dos Caminos	Las Posas Road & Ponderosa Drive	4.39	1966	Tot Lot Play Equipment Restrooms Multipurpose Building
Encanto	Avenida Encanto & Blanco Court	3.0	1971	Play Equipment Volleyball Poles
Foothill	East Cranbrook & North Lathan Avenue	2.32	1973	Play Equipment Volleyball Poles Basketball
Heritage	Heritage Trail near Joshua Trail	8.89	1990	Play Equipment Barbecues
Laurelwood	Mobil Avenue & Dexter Drive	1.53	1981	Play Equipment Volleyball poles
Lokker Park	Vista Coto Verde & Calle Higuera Avenue	7.70	1999	Picnic Tables BBQ Pit Play Equipment Volleyball Court Basketball Courts
Quito	Quito Court & Calle Dia	5.0	1995	Play Equipment BBQ Pit Picnic Tables Volleyball Courts
Springville Park	Terra Santa and Via Zamora	4.88	1999	Play Equipment Tennis Courts
Trailside	Willow View Drive	0.5	1976	Play Equipment
Woodcreek	Woodcreek Road & Lynnwood Drive	4.6	1998	Picnic Tables BBQ Pit Play Equipment Soccer Field
Woodside	Ridgeview Avenue & Japonica Avenue	4.9	1981	Play Equipment

DEVELOPED COMMUNITY PARKS

Park Name	Location	Size in Acres	Year Developed	Facilities
Community Center	Burnley Street and Carmen Drive	12.85	1969	Auditorium Cafeteria Meeting Rooms Tot Lot Horseshoe pits Volleyball poles
Freedom	Pleasant Valley Rd. & Eubanks Street	33.86	1977	Meeting Rooms Swimming Pool Restrooms 2 Tennis Courts 3 Lighted Ballfields 6 Soccer Fields
Mission Oaks	Mission Oaks & Oak Canyon	10.0	1983	Snack Bar 6 Tennis Courts 3 Ballfields Parking Lot
Pleasant Valley	Temple Avenue, South of Ponderosa Drive	12.95	1969	Indoor Swimming Pool Play Equipment 2 Horseshoe pits 3 Lighted Ballfields 6 Tennis Courts 2 Volleyball Courts
Valle Lindo	Valle Lindo & Aileen Street	10.0	1978	Play Equipment 5 Tennis Courts Restrooms Amphitheater

UNDER CONSTRUCTION COMMUNITY PARK

Park Name	Location	Size In Acres
Mariposa	Flynn Road & Calle Brisa	10.0

DEVELOPED REGIONAL PARK

Park Name	Location	Size in Acres	Year Developed	Facilities
Camarillo Grove Park	U.S. 101/ Ventura Fwy. & Camarillo Springs	24.5	Acquired from County 2002	Picnic Tables BBQ Pit Play Equipment Horseshoe Pits Group Picnic

SPECIAL USE COMMUNITY PARKS

Park Name	Location	Size in Acres	Year Developed	Facilities
Las Posas Equestrian	Via Veneto	2.06	1982	Arena Dressage Area

SPECIAL USE PARK

Park Name	Location	Size In Acres	Year Developed	Facilities
Constitution Park	Carmen Drive & Paseo Camarillo	4.0	1977	Performing Arts Pavillion

PROPOSED PARKS

Park Name	Location	Size In Acres	Facilities
Village at the Park	Pleasant Valley Road	55-acre Community Sports Park	Soccer Fields Softball Fields Basketball Courts Tennis Courts

MBS*:jw/sls/jw (f:\GenPlan 2001-02\RECREATION ELEMENT Update 2002) (Revised 9-12-02/jw)

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